

Nurses Memorial Chapel Media Brief Update – 4th May 2018



View of new reinforcing being installed to the round stained-glass window in the Chancel.

Building History & Description

The Nurses Memorial Chapel was completed in December 1927 and is dedicated to the Nurses of Christchurch Hospital who died on the Marquette, a transport ship that was torpedoed in the First World War and two nurses who died as a result of the influenza epidemic of 1918.

The building is of a brick construction with Sandstone architectural features a timber roof covered with Welsh Slate tiles. The interior has a timber Parquet floor, timber panelling to the walls, ornate trusses with timber sarking to the ceilings. There are several stain glass windows that commemorate events over the period of its history.

As you enter the building through a small porch with service areas on either side you immediately enter the Nave with the Chancel directly to the front of you. On either side of the Chancel is the East and West Vestry. There is also a basement to the building.

Contract & Establishment on Site

The contract for the main contractor's role has been awarded to Max Projects.

Building Consent / Heritage Works Plan

- The work is being undertaken under a Heritage Works Plan which has been completed by Tony Ussher Heritage Architect and Consultant with Support from George Sinclair of Beca Engineers.
- An approved Building Consent has been issued for the works.

Summary of Works

- Basement level is to receive new masonry block walls to support the existing ground floor slab.
- Part of the existing timber panelling to the interior will be carefully removed and stored on site for re-installation. The inner brick wall will be removed in places and replaced with masonry block.
- The brick buttresses will be partly dismantled from the inside and a concrete core will be built that will connect to the inner block work and new ring beam.
- The two gable ends, sanctuary arch will be carefully deconstructed and new reinforced concrete walls built that will then be clad with the Limestone and brick outer skin.
- A new reinforced ring beam will be constructed between the top wall of the building and the roof. This will tie in the
- The slate tiles to the roof will be carefully removed and a new ply timber diaphragm will be installed before the tiles are relayed.
- All the internal timber panelling, parquet flooring, Limestone and associated interior fittings will then be re-instated.
- Undertake a design for a new sprinkler system for the building following a request from the Chapel Trust.

Current Status / Progress on Site

- Structural basement work is now 100% complete and the interior has received a new moisture barrier to the ceiling. We have started on the new installation of the sprinkler system pipework and main valve control box.
- Due to the remediation of the Asbestos and the loss of nine weeks from the construction programme, we have had to prop the entire roof to work on all aspects of the structure at the same time. Part of the propping, approximately 50% to the North end of the Nave has now been removed on the completion of the ring beam install.
- The inner columns to the Buttresses, the ring beam, Dormer ends have been poured and works to these areas completed.
- The gable end to the Nave has now been completed with RC.
- The Chancel Arch is getting the last piece of reio installed before the final pour of concrete the third week of May.
- New window lintels / extension of the top wall ring beam has been installed to the toilet and cleaners room.
- The final design for the blocking to the new ring beam and the existing rafters has been approved by the engineer and these are currently being installed to the Nave. On completion of this the sarking will be re-installed together with the new ply diaphragm roof. The new Welsh slate tiles are expected to land at Lyttleton the second week of May for immediate installation.
- The Limestone capping and centre support for the finial crosses will also be cut down and reinstalled.
- Service work to the chapel including the upgrade of the electrical services and the installation of the sprinkler fire protection system are currently underway.
- With the revisions to the construction details we have had to issue two amendments to the Heritage Works Plan. These have been completed and the amended plans have been re-issued by the CCC planners.

Moving Forward

- The final pour of the reinforced concrete inner wall of the Chancel arch is to be completed.

- Once both arches have been poured and completed the Limestone to the interior and the brick to the exterior will be reinstalled.
- Roofing work is to be completed with the installation of the new Welsh slate tiles.
- The new floor slab to the part floor of the Nave will be poured.
- Both of the Dormers to the East and West of the Building will be completed with the reinforcing and the concrete poured for the installation of the linings.

Risks & Issues

- The site is small and has limited access for the deliveries, access by contractors and subcontractors, storage of items and working space. To date we have had minor issues regarding this issue and the contractor is managing this well.

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Programme

- We are currently on Programme. Due to the discovery of the Asbestos and the removal of it we will be changing the sequencing of the construction work by starting at the Chancel end of the Chapel and working back to the entry. This has been discussed and agreed by all parties.

Expected Completion Date

- An estimated construction period on site will be 12 to 14 months. This will be dependent on the existing building structure and what is found as we deconstruct the existing fabric.



The reinstallation of the Oamaru Limestone Arch to the Chancel has now started. The existing stone was carefully deconstructed and has now been installed back to its original position.



The black panels indicate the boxing to the vertical buttress columns and the horizontal ring beams at the time of the concrete pour to the nave areas. All reinforced concrete to the Nave has been completed.



View of the Chapel Nave looking back towards the front entrance to the building. The scaffold propping has supported the roof independent of the building whilst the strengthening works have been completed. The propping will be removed the first week of May now that the building and roof are re-connected.